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SLACKNESS. *n. f.* [from *slack*.]

1. Looseness; not tightness.

2. Negligence; inattention; remissness.

It concerneth the duty of the church by law to provide, that the looseness and *slackness* of men may not cause the commandments of God to be unexecuted. *Hooker*.

These thy offices,

So rarely kind, are as interpreters

Of my behind-hand *slackness*. *Shak. Winter's Tale*.From man's effeminate *slackness* it begins,

Who should better hold his place

By wisdom, and superior gifts receiv'd. *Milton's Par. Lost*.

3. Want of tendency.

When they have no disposition to shoot out above their lips, there is a *slackness* to heal, and a cure is very difficultly effected. *Shak. Surgery*.

4. Weakness; not force; not intenseness.

Through the *slackness* of motion, or long banishment from the air, it might gather some aptness to putrefy. *Brerewood*.SLAG. *n. f.* The dross or recrement of metal.Not only the calces but the glasses of metal may be of differing colours from the natural colour of the metal, as I have observed about the glass or slag of copper. *Boyle*.SLAKE. *n. f.* A weaver's reed.SLAIN. The participle passive of *slay*.The slain of the Lord shall be many. *Is. lxvi. 16*.

Fought all his battles o'er again;

And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice he slew the slain. *Dryden*.To SLAKE. *v. a.* [from *slack*, *Skinner*; from *slack*, *Islandick*;

1. To quench; to extinguish.

He did always strive

Himself with selves to health for to restore,

And slake the heavenly fire that rag'd evermore. *Fa. Queen*.

If I digg'd up thy forefathers graves,

And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,

It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart. *Shak. H.VI*.She with her cold hand *slakes*His spirits, the sparks of life, and chills his heart. *Crashaw*.

From Julius' head

A lambent flame arose, which gently spread

Around his brows, and on his temples fed:

Amaz'd, with running water we prepare

To quench the sacred fire, and *slake* his hair. *Dryden*.The fragrant fruit from bending branches *slakes*,And with the crystal stream their thirst at pleasure *slakes*. *Blackmore's Creation*.

Coarse are his meals, the fortune of the chase;

Amidst the running stream he *slakes* his thirst. *Addis. Cats*.

2. It is used of lime, so that it is uncertain whether the original

notion of *To slack* or *slake* lime be to powder or quench it.

That which he saw happened to be fresh lime, and gathered

before any rain had fallen to *slake* it. *Woodward*.To SLAKE. *v. n.* [This is apparently from *slack*.] To grow

less tense; to be relaxed.

If the body's nature did partake,

Her strength would with the body's strength decay;

But when the body's strongest sinews *slake*,Then is the soul most active, quick, and gay. *Davies*.To SLAM. *v. a.* [*slama*, *Islandick*; *slagen*, Dutch.] To slaughter;

to crush. A word not used but in low conversation.

To SLANDER. *v. a.* [*eslandrie*, French; *scandalum*, Latin.]

To censure falsely; to belie.

Slander Valentine

With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent. *Shakespeare*.He hath slandered thy servant unto the king. *2 Sa. xix. 27*.

Give me leave to speak as earnestly in truly commending it,

as you have done in untruly and unkindly defacing and *slandering* it. *Whitgift*.

Thou do'st with lies the throne invade,

By practice harden'd in thy *slandering* trade;

Obtending heav'n for what'er ills befall,

And spurring under specious names thy gall. *Dryden*.Of all her dears she never *slander'd* one,But cares not if a thousand are undone. *Dryden*.SLANDER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. False invective.

When *slanders* do not live in tongues;When cut-purses come not to throngs. *Shak. K. Lear*.

Since that, we hear he is in arms,

We think not so;

Yet charge the consul with our harms,

That let him go:

So in our censure of the state

We still do wander,

And make the careful magistrate

The mark of *slander*. *Ben. Johnson's Catiline*.

2. Disgrace; reproach.

Thou *slander* of thy heavy mother's womb!Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins. *Shakespeare. R. III.*

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3. Disreputation; ill name.

You shall not find me, daughter,

After the *slander* of most step-mothers,Ill-ey'd unto you. *Shakespeare*.SLANDERER. *n. f.* [from *slander*.] One who belies another;one who lays false imputations on another. *Shakespeare*.

In your servants suffer any offence against yourself rather

than against God: endure not that they should be railers or

slanderers, tell-tales or sowers of dissension. *Taylor*.Thou shalt answer for this, thou *slanderer*. *Dryden*.SLANDEROUS. *adj.* [from *slander*.]

1. Uttering reproachful falsehoods.

What king so strong

Can tie the gall up in the *slandereous* tongue? *Shakespeare*.

To me belongs

The care to shun the blast of *sland'rous* tongues:

Let malice, prone the virtuous to defame,

Thus with vile censure taint my spotless name. *Pope*.

2. Containing reproachful falsehoods; calumnious.

I was never able till now to choke the mouth of such de-

tractors, with the certain knowledge of their *slandereous* un-truths. *Spenser on Ireland*.

We lay these honours on this man,

To ease ourselves of divers *sland'rous* loads. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*

As by flattery a man opens his bosom to his mortal enemy,

so by detraction and a *slandereous* misreport he shuts the same tohis best friends. *South*.SLANDEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *slandereous*.] Calumniously; with

false reproach.

I may the better satisfy them who object these doubts, and

slandereously bark at the courtes which are held against that trait-terous earl and his adherents. *Spenser on Ireland*.They did *slandereously* object,

How that they durst not hazard to present

In person their defences. *Daniel's Civil War*.SLANG. The preterite of *sling*.David *slang* a stone, and smote the Philistine. *1 Sa. xvii*.SLANK. *n. f.* An herb.SLANT. *adj.* [from *sling*, a serpent, Dutch. *Skinner*.]

Oblique; not direct; not perpendicular.

Late the clouds

Juffling, or push'd with winds, rude in their shock,

Tine the *slant* lightning; whose thwart flame driv'n down,Kindles the gummy bark of air and pine. *Milton's Paradise Lost*.

The sun round the globe describes th' æquator line,

By which wife means he can the whole survey

With a direct or with a *slanting* ray,In the succession of a night and day. *Blackmore*.SLANTLY. *adv.* [from *slant*.] Obliquely; not perpendi-SLANTWISE. *adv.* cularly; slope.

Some maketh a hollowiness half a foot deep,

With fower sets in it, set *slantwise* asleep. *Tusser's Husband*.SLAP. *n. f.* [*schlap*, German.] A blow. Properly with the

hand open, or with something rather broad than sharp.

The laugh, the *slap*, the jocund curse go round. *Thomson*.SLAP. *adv.* [from the noun.] With a sudden and violent blow.

Peg's servants complained; and if they offered to come into

the warehouse, then straight went the yard *slap* over theirnoddle. *Arabian's History of John Bull*.To SLAP. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To strike with a slap.

Dick, who thus long had passive sat,

Here stroak'd his chin, and cock'd his hat;

Then *slapp'd* his hand upon the board,And thus the youth put in his word. *Prior*.SLAPDASH. *interj.* [from *slap* and *dash*.] All at once; as anything broad falls with a *slap* into the water, and *dashes* it about.

A low word.

And yet, *slapdash*, is all againIn ev'ry sinew, nerve, and vein. *Prior*.To SLASH. *v. a.* [*slasa*, to strike, *Islandick*.]

1. To cut; to cut with long cuts.

2. To lash. *Slash* is improper.Daniel, a sprightly swain, that us'd to *slash*

The vigorous steeds that drew his lord's calash,

To Peggy's side inclin'd. *King*.To SLASH. *v. n.* To strike at random with a sword; to lay

about him.

The knights with their bright burning blades

Broke their rude troops, and orders did confound,

Hewing and *slashing* at their idle shades. *Fairy Queen*.

Not that I'd lop the beauties from his book,

Like *slashing* Bentley with his desperate hook. *Pope*.SLASH. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Cut; wound.

Some few received some cuts and *slashes* that had drawnblood. *Clarendon*.

2. A cut in cloth.

What! this a sleeve?

Here's snip and nip, and cut, and slish and *slashes*, *Shakespeare*.

Like to a censor in a barber's shop.

Distinguish'd

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Distinguish'd *slashes* deck the great,

As each excels in birth or state;

His oylet-holes are more and ampler;

The king's own body was a sampler. *Prior*.SLATCH. *n. f.* [A sea term.] The middle part of a rope orcable that hangs down to sea. *Halley*.SLATE. *n. f.* [from *slit*: *slate* is in some counties a crack; orfrom *spile*, a tile, French.] A grey fossil stone, easily

broken into thin plates, which are used to cover houses, or to

write upon.

A square cannot be so truly drawn upon a *slate* as it is cou-ceiv'd in the mind. *Grew's Optic*.A small piece of a flat *slate* the ants laid over the hole oftheir nest, when they tore it away. *Addison's Sp. B.*To SLATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cover the roof; to tile.

Sonnets and elegies to Chloris.

Would raise a house about two stories, *Swift*.A lyrick ode would *slate*.SLATER. *n. f.* [from *slate*.] One who covers with slates or

tiles.

SLATTERN. *n. f.* [*slactis*, Swedish.] A woman negligent,

not elegant or nice.

Without the raising of which sum,

You dare not be so troublesome

To pinch the *slatterns* black and blue,For leaving you their work to do. *Hudibras*.We may always observe, that a gossip in politics is a *slat-*tern in her family. *Addison's Freeholder*.

The fallow skin is for the swarthy put,

And love can make a *slattern* of a slut. *Dryden*.

Beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare,

The new-scour'd manteau and the *slattern* air. *Gay*.SLATY. *adj.* [from *slate*.] Having the nature of slate.All the stone that is *slaty*, with a texture long, and parallel

to the site of the stratum, will split only lengthways, or hori-

zontally; and, if placed in any other position, 'tis apt to give

way, start, and burst, when any considerable weight is laid

upon it. *Woodward on Fossils*.SLAVE. *n. f.* [*selave*, French.] It is said to have its originalfrom the *Slavi*, or *Slavonians*, subdued and sold by the *Ve-*

netians.] One mancipiated to a master; not a freeman; a

dependent.

The banish'd Kent, who in disguise

Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service

Improper for a *slave*. *Shakespeare. King Lear*.

Thou elvish mark, abortive, rooting hog!

Thou that wast call'd in thy nativity

The *slave* of nature, and the son of hell. *Shakespeare. R. III.*Of guests he makes them *slaves*Inhospitably. *Milton*.

Slaves to our passions we become, and then

It grows impossible to govern men. *Waller*.

The condition of servants was different from what it is

now, they being generally *slaves*, and such as were bought andsold for money. *South*.

Perspective a painter must not want; yet without subjecting

ourselves to wholly to it, as to become *slaves* of it. *Dryden*.

To-morrow, should we thus express our friendship,

Each might receive a *slave* into his arms:

This fun perhaps, this incoming sun's the last;

That e'er shall rise on Roman liberty. *Addison's Cato*.To SLAVE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To drudge; to toil; to

toil.

Had women been the makers of our laws,

The men should *slave* at cards from morn to night. *Swift*.SLAVER. *n. f.* [*saliva*, Latin; *slava*, *Islandick*.] Spittle

running from the mouth; drivel.

Mathiolus hath a passage, that a toad communicates its

venom not only by urine, but by the humidity and *slaver* of itsmouth, which will not consist with truth. *Brown*.

Of all mad creatures, if the learn'd are right,

It is the *slaver* kills, and not the bite. *Pope*.To SLAVER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To be treated with spittle.

Should I

Slaver with lips, as common as the stairs

That mount the capitol; join grips with hands

Made hard with hourly fallowd as with labour. *Shakespeare*.

2. To emit spittle.

Miso came with scowling eyes to deliver a *slavering* good-morrow to the two ladies. *Steele*.Why must he sputter, spawl, and *slaver* it,In vain, against the people's favourite? *Swift*.To SLAVER. *v. a.* To siner with drivel.

Twit'ch'd by the slave he mouths it more and more,

'Till with white froth his gown is *slaver'd* o'er. *Dryden*.SLAYER. *n. f.* [*slabbaerd*, Dutch; from *slaver*.] One who

cannot hold his spittle; a driveller; an idiot.

SLAVERY. *n. f.* [from *slaver*.] Servitude; the condition of a

slave; the offices of a slave.

If my dissentings were out of error, wakeness, or obtu-

sion in me, yet no man can think it other than the badge and

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method of *slavery*, by savage rudeness and importunate ob-

trusions of violence to have the milt of his error dispell'd.

King Charles.

SLAUGHTER. *n. f.* [sonplauge, Saxon,